

Old Favorites And Newcomers In "Good Times"

Trick Riding, High Diving and Elephants Play Their Usual Part in the Big Show at the Hippodrome

By Heywood Brown

The first performance of "Good Times" at the Hippodrome last night imposed upon us a different and rather more important task than generally falls to our lot in the theater. We feel that it is up to us to tell not so much what we thought about the show as to make a full and accurate report to H. B. For a time we thought that it might be best to introduce him to the drama through some of the films of Charlie Chaplin, but we're afraid that he is still too young to get anything but the outward clowning which

masks the soul of a great artist. The Hippodrome show, for all its vastness, is less complex. Of course, it is possible to wait a year, or two, or three. We haven't a doubt that there will always be a Hippodrome scene in toyland, and another where two hundred chorus girls march out to form the flag or to spell America. Elephants are also enduring, we trust, for we should not like to have H. B. miss the opportunity of seeing Minnie Fox trot or perform her recently acquired trick of doing the shimmy.

As a matter of fact, even the Hippodrome presents certain difficulties. When some thirty or forty chorus girls march into the tank in the last act and disappear we shall feel obliged to tell H. B. that they have not really gone for good and all. We would not want him to feel sorry at the wholesale destruction, and still less would we care to have him believe that the management had sacrificed forty performers for his amusement. We think his idea of recreation should be on a somewhat smaller scale.

Still, if he asks where the diving girls have gone we won't know what to say, as we haven't the slightest idea. We can hardly afford to tell him that. It would be too much of a

shock for him to find out just yet that there is anything we don't know. That is something we hope to break to him gently year by year. Much of the performance he will be able to enjoy and comprehend without aid or advice. Probably the act in which everything squirts water on the comedian will appeal to him a great deal more than it does to us. On the other hand he may not enjoy Perry Corey half as much as we did when he played ragtime on a garden fence and used a gun barrel for a piccolo solo. H. B. has only a rudimentary knowledge of music.

Corvey was much the best of the newcomers on the Hippodrome bill. Of the old favorites "Poodles" Hanneford easily held his place at the top with his remarkable riding stunts and his clowning. Marcelino does not do a great deal, and his little is not particularly effective. Belle Storey is singing better than ever and is decidedly personable. Arthur Geary is also effective. Joe Jackson is amusing in his familiar bicycle act, and there is some thrilling diving, particularly a leap from the roof by Dorothy Gates. Or, perhaps, it was Anna Mack, since both names appear on the program. According to the usual cus-

On the Screen

William Farnum Takes Leading Role in "If I Were King"

Justin Huntly McCarthy, who always runs rich in the highly picturesque, both in his dramatic and fictional labors, has given to William Farnum all the tinsel and glitter with which to go through two hours of a thrilling reel sketch in "If I Were King." The Lyric opened last night to a fair-sized audience and will run the screen adaptation of this great stage success for two weeks. Let it be said at the outset that William Farnum, either as the heroic rough-neck of the purple saga country, as the soldier of fortune in the great white silences of Alaska, as a mountebank in Mexico, or as Jean Valjean in "Les Miserables," has never shown to better advantage than in McCarthy's presentation of the pathetic reign of Louis XI, during the mid-

fifteenth century, when treason, corruption, bribery, vice and all the sins of omission and commission were the order of the day.

Farnum, as Francois Villon, a "cockle shell" of the Paris underworld, now known by the name of Apache, saves France, even as Jeanne D'Arc saved France, through these heroics that are conferred on the humble only through the tricks of fate—so runs the story, at least.

Louis XI, played by Fritz Lieber, discovers Villon during a "slumming expedition," after Villon falls in love with Katherine (Betty Ross Clarke), whom the king desires to make his mistress. Villon, a thief, is swayed from his robbery of gold plate in the king's chapel by the sight of Katherine in prayer that France may be saved from the Duke of Burgundy, whose army is then thundering at the gates of Paris.

Just what kind of knockout drops the king administers to Villon is not known, but Villon undergoes a period of amnesia, so to speak, and "comes to" as the Count Montcorbier, Grand Constable of France. This all happens, however, after he, as a vagabond, has exposed the treason of the king's grand marshal, Thibaut, a part played by

Walter Law, and has wounded Thibaut in a duel. In fact, he has two duels with Thibaut during the picture, in the latter of which he slays the traitor.

By taking the reins in his own hand while he is under a week's parole before he is to be hanged, Villon, now become the magnificent, conquers Burgundy's army and wins the love of Katherine. The king grants a full pardon and there the story ends. But the presentation is splendid from every point of view.

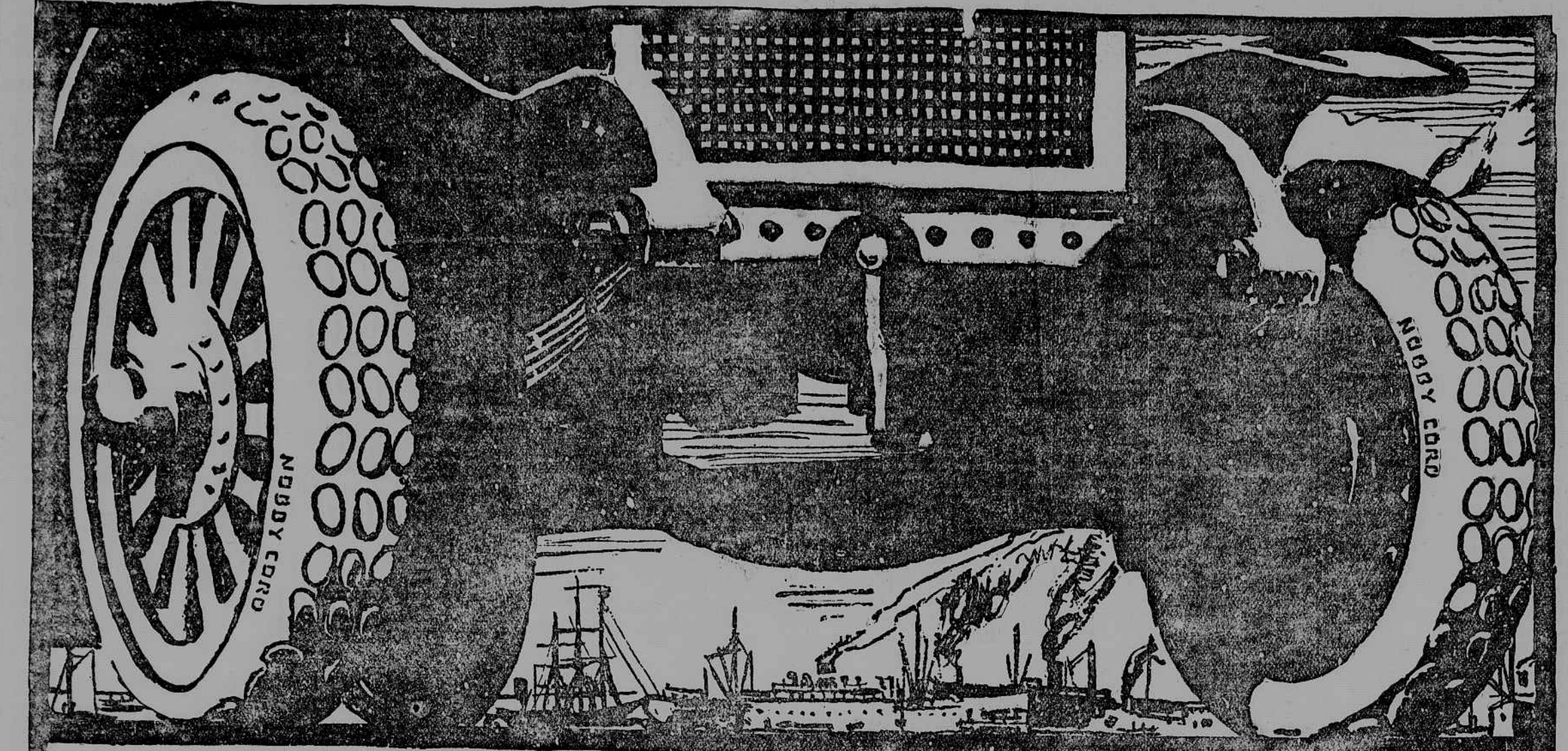
Pretty Girls and Tuneful Music on the Palace Bill

Harry Carroll "Does" Two Parts in Emergency; Charles King & Co.

The series of "and company" musical reviews comprising tuneful music and pretty girls, started two months ago by Joseph Santley, has run through Pat Rooney and Harry Carroll successfully. Yesterday it added another. Charles King and company, in "Love Letters." But the latest piece is not to be compared with the Sant-

Soviet Agent in Argentina

BUENOS AYRES, Aug. 9.—An agent of the Russian cooperative societies, Abraham Rabinovich, has arrived here to establish an agency for the societies and a branch of the Baltic Bank. He announces that he comes with authority from the Russian Soviet to renew commercial relations with Argentina on an extensive scale.



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